THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): The projects and schemes pertaining to Assam pending with the Ministry of Environment & Forests for clearance and the details of action taken in each cash, so far, during the last two years are given in the enclosed Statement below.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Projects	Date of receipt	Action taken during the last two years
1.	Champamati Irrigation Project, Deptt. of Irrigation, Govt. of Assam	May, 1998	(1) Almost all the major works of this Projec. have been completed. The proposal was discussed with Secretary (Irrigation, Govt. of Assam) on 3-7-98. Additional information on CAT in Bhutan, drainage on waterlogged area etc. were sought on 28th July, 1998. (2) Partial information received in October, 1998. (3) However information regarding degraded Catchment area in Bhutan and Catchment Area Treatment Plan has not been submitted.
2.	Hydro-treatment plant for upgrading coker LPG to HSD at Dhaligaon, of M/s BPRL.	February, 1999	Additional clarification on environmental aspects have been sought on 15th March, 1999. The additional information re ved on 26.3.99 is being examinec.
3.	Champamati Irrigation Project.	March, 1998	Essential detail sought from State Government on 31.3.98. Site inspection report awaited from Principle Chief Conservation of Forest (C) Shillong.
4.	Diversion of 35.20 ha. For 400 KW Sub Station in favour of Power Grid Corpn.	February, 1999	Essential detail sought from State Government and Chief Conservator of Forest (C), Shillong asked to enquire into violation of Forest Conservation Act on 22.2.99.

Destruction of Ecologically valuable regions in western Ghats

2817. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the unbridled private development of hill stations and tourist resorts in Maharashtra had destructed ecologically valuable regions in Western Ghats;

(b) if so, the details of the damage caused by mere developments to the flora and fauna of Western Ghats; and

(c) the steps proposed by Government to maintain ecological balance of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Unbridled private development of hill stations and tourist resorts would have some impact on the ecology of the Western Ghat region in Maharashtra but no specific information is available regarding any damage being caused to the flora and fauna of the region. Regulations regarding construction activities are expected to limit adverse impact on the environment.

Incidents of Forest Fire

2818. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of forest fire incidents in the country during the last one year, state-wise;

(b) the loss of casualities, number of wild animals parished and seedings, young trees and grass destroyed by these forest fires; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent these forest fires in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The Government has taken following initiatives to prevent forest fire in future:

1. State Governments have been advised to involve Forest Protection Committees under Joint Forest Management Programme to control this problem.

2. A Scheme Modern Forest Fire Control Methods is being implemented in eleven States of the country under which assistance is provided to the states for prevention, detection and control of forest fires. During Ninth Five Year Plan under the scheme Modern Forest Fire Control Methods an outlay of Rs. 15 crores has been provided.

Pollution in Metro cities

2819. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the level of air pollution by motor vehicles, three/two wheelers in Delhi, where more than 20 lakh vehicles are on roads, which number is more than the total number of vehicles plying in Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai;

(b) the number of industrial units in Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai, the volume of waste water, air and sound pollution generated by each separately;

(c) sound pollution created by the Barat Processions and various religious functions using uninterrupted microphones even in night, each city separately; and

(d) sound pollution created by the flights in and around aerodromes, each city separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. About 60 to 70% of air pollution is due to the vehicular emissions.

(b) to (d) No such specific data is available. However, the noise pollution surveys conducted by Central Pollution Control Board, in the major Indian cities reveal that there is an increasing trend of noise in the residential areas and silence zones which is mainly due to increased vehicular traffic.